MR. CHAIRMAN: It would not be a part of the record.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: अगर इनको बुरा लग रहा है तो हम माफी मांगते हैं। लेकिन सरदार के लिए कुछ नहीं कहा है, पगड़ी-साफा तो कई लोग पहनते हैं।

श्री पी. एम. सईद: आदरणीय सदस्य ने जो सवाल पूछा है कि खरबूजे में जो नशीले पदार्थ पाए गए हैं, यह भी जाने-अनजाने जो वहां की व्यवस्था करने वाले हैं, उनको आपने क्रेडिट ही दिया है। क्योंकि उसमें यह पाया जाना और आफिशियल को यह सस्पीशियन आ गया खरबूजे में कोई नशीला पदार्थ घुसाने का तो उसको उन्होंने वहां तोड़ कर देखा तो उसमें यह पाया गया...(व्यवधान)

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, I am not able to understand what the hon. Minister is replying. There is no interpretation. (*interruptions*) Now it is coming.

श्री पी. एम. सईद: इसके इलावा अभी तक जो पाए गये हैं, वह छोटे एक-एक ग्राम, दो-दो ग्राम के नशीले पदार्थ पाए गए हैं और वह भी इसी पोलीथीन पैक में ही पाए गए हैं। इसलिए हमने कहा कि खास कर के इस दृष्टि से हम उसको देखते हैं, किसी भी फल को काट कर भी जैसे खरबूजे के अन्दर पाया गया है। इसलिए यह कहना ठीक नहीं है कि और नशीले पदार्थ अन्दर चले जाएंगे। यह बिलकुल गलत है।

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Sir, I wonder whether in the present frenzy for liberalisation and globalisation, even the Tihar Jail has been truly globalised. Already all sorts of stories are being heard. There has been recently a report that a hardened international criminal, who must have committed dozens of murders across the world and who is also accused of many other heinous crimes, has been provided facilities to write a laudatory biography of an Inspector-General of Police, who was in charge of this prison till recently. I wonder how these things could and can happen in our country. I would like the Home Minister to make a response.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): May I request the hon. Member kindly to repeat the question? I have not followed it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Leasing of ships to ONGC by Essar Shipping

*203. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Essar Shipping is leasing out ships to ONGC on cost plus basis;

(b) if so, the difference between the cost plus lease and the current market rates for leasing; and

(c) the terms and conditions under which such cost plus norms were decided and the reasons for accepting such arrangements by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No ship/ vessel has been taken on lease from M/s. Essar Shipping on cost plus basis by ONGC directly. However, in May-June, 1995, Oil Coordination Committee (OCC) have released, on request from ONGCL, from their charter fleet, MT Nand Shivchand of M/s. Essar Shipping, for short term deployment. For such requirements ONGCL reimburses the cost on a back to back basis to OCC.

Protection of the rights of fishermen granted by Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 1974

*205. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the traditional rights of Indian fishermen for fishing, pilgrimage and navigation which they had enjoyed in the past in the histroic waters between India and Sri Lanka, under the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement of 1974; and

(b) if so, what are the steps taken so far to protect the traditional rights of our fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government are aware of the traditional rights of Indian fishermen for access and pilgrimage, as guaranteed under the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement of 1974. These traditional rights include access to Kachchativu for resting, drying their nets and attending the annual St. Anthony's festival. These traditional rights, however, do not include the right to fish in and around Kachchativu.

(b) The fulfilment of the traditional rights of Indian fishermen has been in abeyance since 1983 due to adverse security conditions in the Palk Straits. From time to time, the Government have pointed out to Sri Lanka Government that our fishermen would like to enjoy these rights in an unhindered manner. The Question of the restoration of traditional rights of Indian fishermen for access to Kachchativu area, as guaranteed under the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Agreements of 1974 and 1976, remains under discussion between the two Governments.

Infected wastes discharged from hospitals and nursing homes

*207. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rising menace of solid waste, particularly the infected waste from hospitals and nursing homes;

(b) whether this has casued a serious threat to public health and environment;

(c) whether any Central law is proposed to be enacted to tackle the problem; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) Government have notified the draft Bio-Medical Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1995 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These have been published as Draft Rules for information of the public and concerned agencies likely to be affected, inviting objections from them within a period of sixty days from the date the notification is made available to them. The final notification is required to be issued after considering these suggestions.

(d) Does not arise.

Sale of Sophisticated Submarines by France to Pakistan

*208 DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported deal under negotiation for sale of sophisticated submarines Agosta-90 by France to Pakistan who is engaged in a proxy war against India by way of aiding and abetting terrorism in several parts of India including Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up with French Government impressing upon that Government to desist from sale of these submarines to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. On 21 September 1994, Pakistan concluded a contract with France for the purchase of three 90-B Agosta Class submarines.

(b) We have taken up the matter with the Government of France and conveyed our concerns regarding their decision to sell Agosta 90-B submarines to Pakisatn, pointing out the adverse impact this will have on our security and on regional stability.

RMS Office at Bargarh in Orissa

*209. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an office of the RMS (Railway Mail Service) located in the Bargarh town of Orissa was closed down some years ago;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the local people or organisations have represented to Government to reopen the office; and